

FINAL

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCERS use only  
received  
date entered

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic "Ashby"  
and/or common Ashby Place

**2. Location**

street & number County Road 350E not for publication  
city, town Ladoga X vicinity of congressional district 7th  
state Indiana code 018 county Montgomery code 107

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Olen R. Gowens and Harley M. Reeder  
street & number R. 1, Box 84-A  
city, town Ladoga X vicinity of state Indiana 47954

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse  
street & number Main at Washington Streets  
city, town Crawfordsville state Indiana 47933

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date  federal  state  county  local

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Ashby House is an Italianate style structure typical of the 1880's. The exterior of the house has been restored to its original appearance. The interior layout of the house had never been altered or remodeled until changes were made in the last few years for plumbing, mechanical, and electrical needs.

The house is brick with a limestone block foundation. A limestone sill separates the garden wall bond brick and the limestone foundation. Very little pointing has been done to the masonry. The main portion of the house is two stories with a full basement and is irregular in shape.

All of the original building materials came from the site. The brick was fired on the site in 1882. The trees on the site furnished all the wood for the construction and finishing of the house. The joists and beams are of solid oak. The brackets, soffits, and facia are made of yellow poplar. Black walnut, cherry, chestnut, ash, and oak were used in finishing of the interior.

The main ( east) facade is three bays wide, facing the road. The arched double doors with glass panels are located on the left side of the main facade. The doors have a segmented stone lintel. The portico and steps are of wood construction. The portico has a flat roof with small brackets under the eaves.

In the center of the west facade is a polygon bay extending the full height of the building. There is also an exit to the right of center on the first level of the west facade, which opens out to a wood portico. The roof of the portico is flat. The door has a single glass panel and a segmented stone lintel.

The building has a hip roof which is truncated over the two story portion. The roof was completely replaced during a restoration of the house (1977-1979). There are large and small brackets under the eaves. There is a large frieze, which is equal in height to the large brackets. There are two chimneys.

The kitchen and woodshed portion is only one story and located in the rear of the house. It is "L" shaped and has a hip roof with small brackets under the eaves. A veranda goes around two sides of the one story kitchen area.

All of the windows have long, double-hung sashes, with stone lintels and sills. The windows and lintels have segmented arches. All windows have segmented shutters except for the windows on the polygon bay.

All original walls, interior and exterior, are 17 inch thick masonry walls. The structure is in excellent condition, and the masonry walls are free of cracks. Because the interior walls start at the basement and continue all the way up to the attic, all three levels have identical floor plans, except for the kitchen area on the first floor.

The fireplaces have been reopened and mantels installed of the style and design of the era.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1883

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ashby Place is a notable example of Italianate architecture. In addition to its historical associations with the Ashby family, the structure is significant in Montgomery County as an excellent example of Italianate architecture. The hipped roof, segmental arched windows and doors, brackets, and irregular plan indicate a consistent use of Italianate elements. The structure is especially notable since it is larger and more substantial than most country houses, and it is also important because many 19th Century houses in rural areas are disappearing.

It is significant that a house of such magnitude and elegance should be built in a rural area. Ashby Place rivals the luxury and grandeur of the very finest contemporary houses of the urban areas, and furnished the Ashby family a country seat reminiscent of stately plantations. Its broad sweep of lawn, adorned with towering maples and oaks against the wooded background along Cornstalk Creek afforded a very pleasing and amiable setting for the hospitality of an affluent generation.

The bustling industrial growth and the western movement following the Civil War and the Reconstruction period had placed the Indiana farmer in a most favorable position. The demand for his grain, pork, beef, and other agricultural products to support this tremendous expansion and growth gave the farmer an eager and insatiable market for all he could produce while, at the same time, rewarding him most generously. The establishment of the railroads, the development of the Erie Canal and other waterways, brought the market to his door.

The Ashby family were among the first settlers in the area and have had considerable influence, culturally and economically. The family settled in the area in 1828. Thompson Ashby, father of the builder, was a friend of Miami Indian Chief Cornstalk. Thompson was one of the few whites of the time who championed the Indians' ancient rights to camp and hunt every summer along Cornstalk Creek. In addition to extensive farming operations, the Ashbys helped develop lumber, coal, and grain dealerships in Ladoga. Bertha Ashby, the last of the family born in the house, founded the Ladoga Library and the Brown County Library, and was head librarian at Indiana University until her retirement.

The existing structure was completed in 1883 for Robert L. Ashby, who had inherited the land from his grandfather. A Mr. Britton came from Crawfordsville, built a brick kiln, and spent the summer firing brick from red clay on the farm. Yellow poplar on the farm provided the lumber.

The Ashbys moved out of the house in 1902, and it was a tenant structure until 1952. The house was unoccupied from 1952 until it was purchased and restored by the present owners from 1977 to 1979. The restored structure has attracted a great deal of interest, and over 1500 visitors toured the structure in 1979.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Title recorded in Montgomery County Courthouse, Crawfordsville, Indiana  
 "History of Clark Township, Ladoga and Part of Scott Township, 1828-1971" by Mrs. Harold Walter  
 Recorded interview with Miss Bertha Ashby, daughter of the builder and born in the house  
 April 14, 1890

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.47

Quadrangle name Ladoga

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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4	4	1	6	2	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Olen R. Gowens and Harley M. Reeder

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date January 10, 1980

street & number R. 1, Box 84-A telephone 317/942-2088

city or town Ladoga state Indiana 47954

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/12-80

For HCRS use only

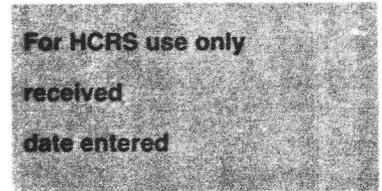
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet    Description    Item number    7    Page    2

The original eleven foot plaster ceiling had been badly damaged by rain and snow. Plumbing, electrical, and hot water lines for the new central hot water heating system were installed above new plaster ceilings to reduce the amount of disturbance to the structure.

The design over the outside windows and doors has been carried out in the woodwork over the doors and windows in the interior.

The environment and site remain the same as when the house was originally built with the exception of the loss of two large maple trees.

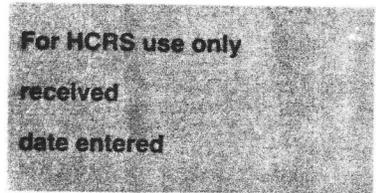
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Geographical Data

Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Description Item number 10

Page 2



Part of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 22, Township 17 north, range 4, west of the second principal meridian, situated in Montgomery County, Indiana. Beginning 1221.8 feet north of the southeast corner of said east half at a spike in the center of County Road 300E and running thence south 89 degrees and 08 minutes west 496.72 feet to an iron pin, thence north 62 degrees and 04 minutes west 91.32 feet to an iron pin, thence north 89 degrees and 18 minutes west 50.96 feet to an iron pin, thence north 88 degrees and 48 minutes east 631.44 feet to a spike in the center of said County Road, thence south 317.10 feet to the place of beginning, containing 4.47 acres.